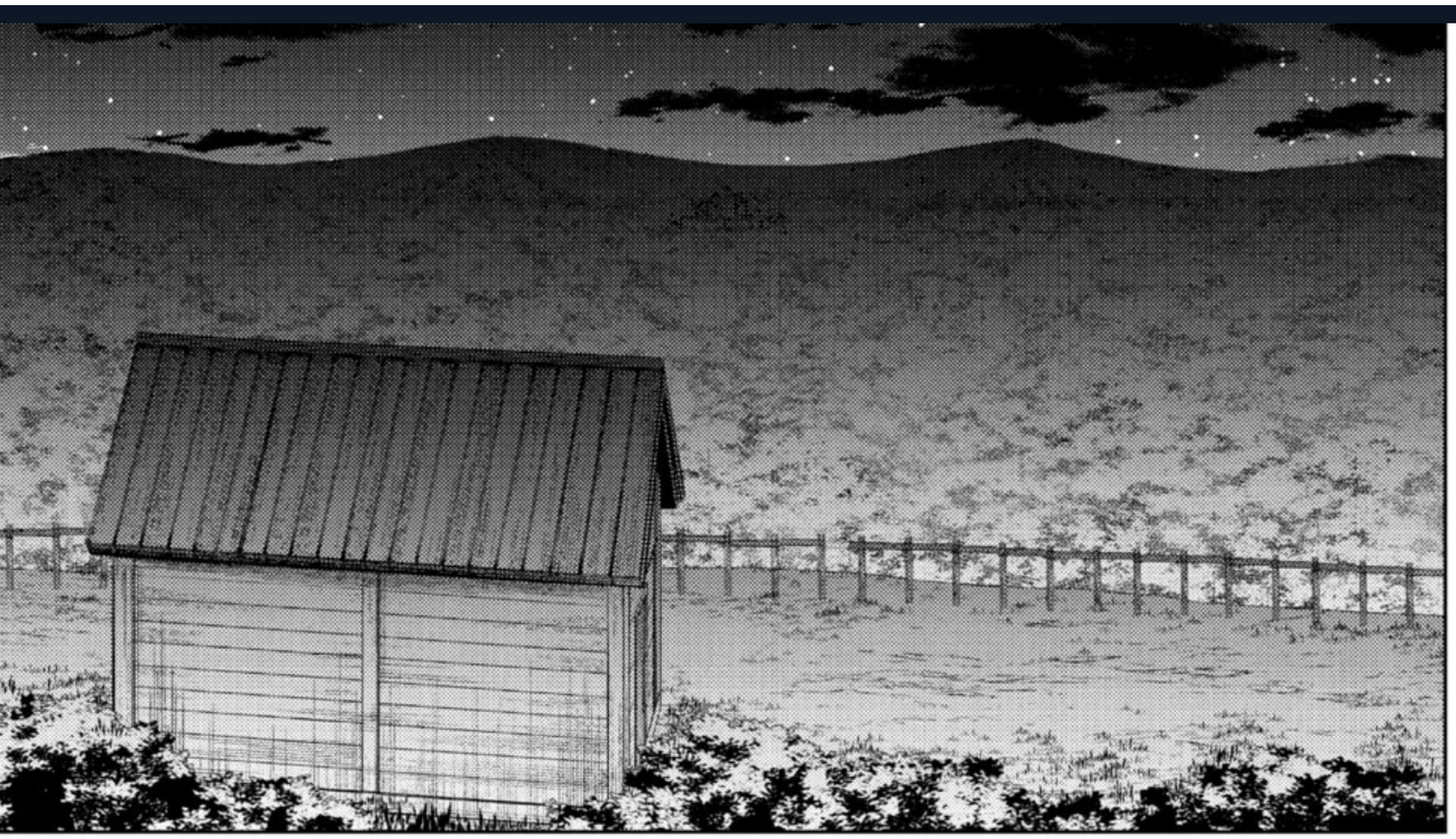
Chapter 87: Affection

Frieren

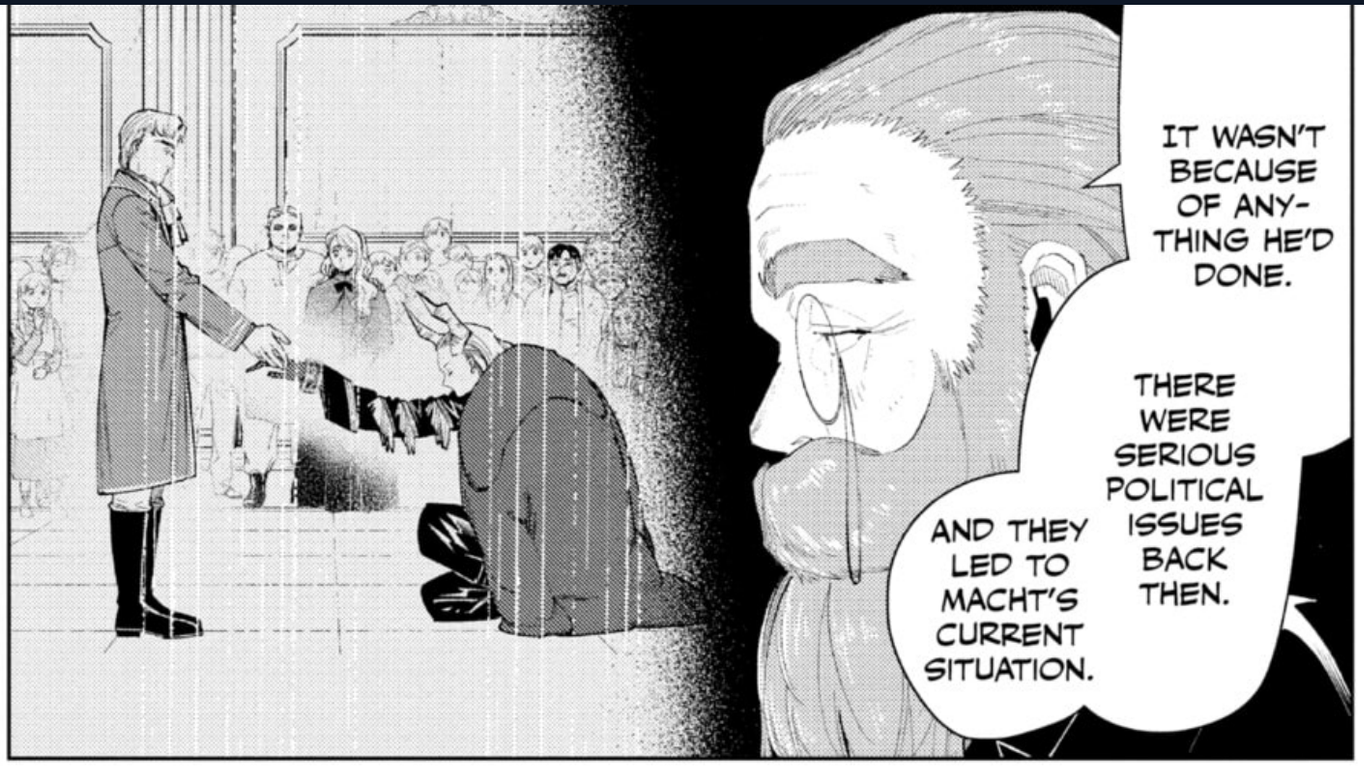
Beyond Journey's End

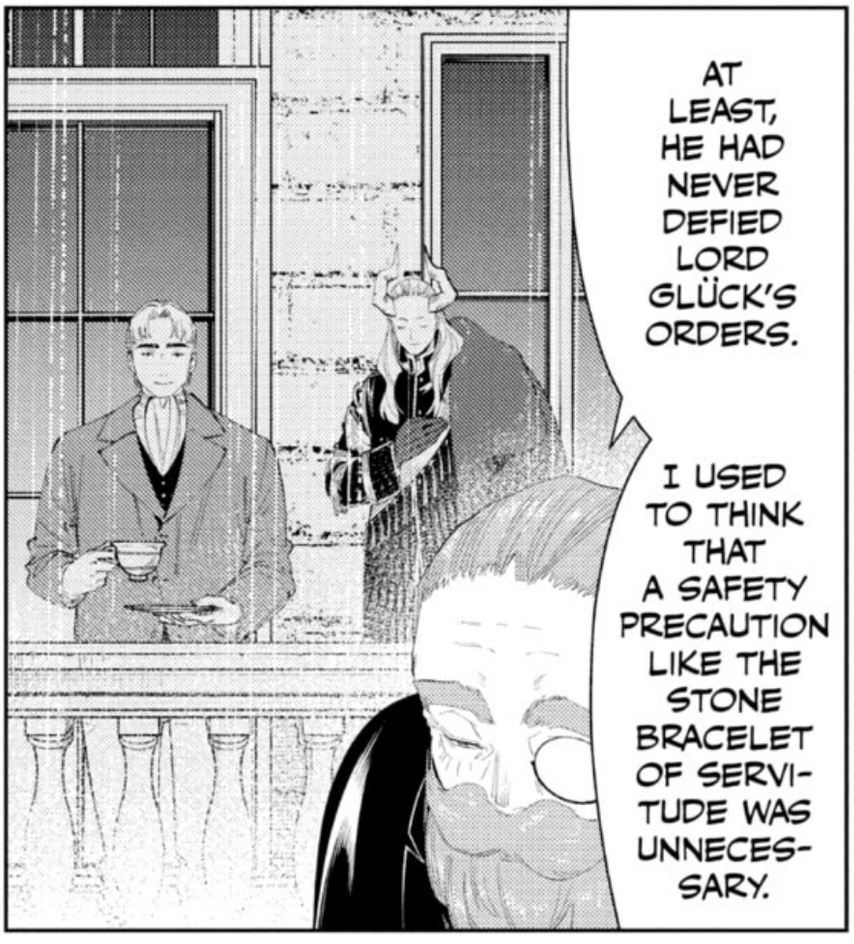


MACHT WAS MY MENTOR.
HE BEGAN TEACHING ME SPELLS WHEN I WAS A CHILD.
HE'S AN UNUSUAL DEMON WHO CAN USE HUMANITY'S MAGIC.

WHEN YOU WERE A

I'M TURNING 78 THIS YEAR.
HOLD ON.
HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?
CHILD?
THE YEARS DON'T ADD UP.
IT WAS 60 YEARS AGO WHEN THEY PUT THE STONE BRACELET OF SERVITUDE ON MACHT, RIGHT?
MACHT BEGAN SERVING LORD GLÜCK...
...OVER 80 YEARS AGO.
THEY PUT THE STONE BRACELET OF SERVITUDE ON MACHT ROUGHLY 20 YEARS AFTER THAT.

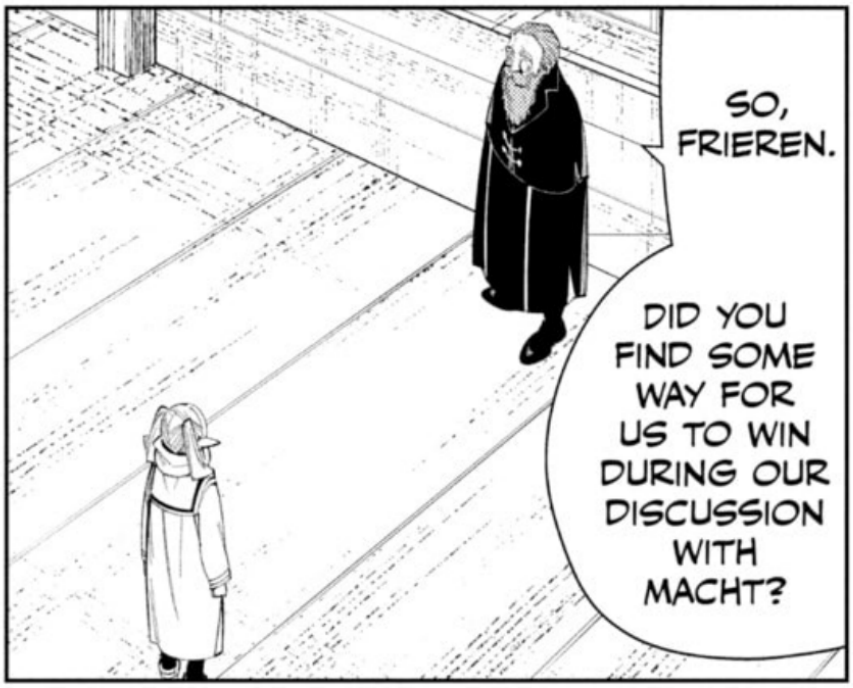

IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF ANY-THING HE'D DONE.
THERE WERE SERIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES BACK THEN.
AND THEY LED TO MACHT'S CURRENT SITUATION.

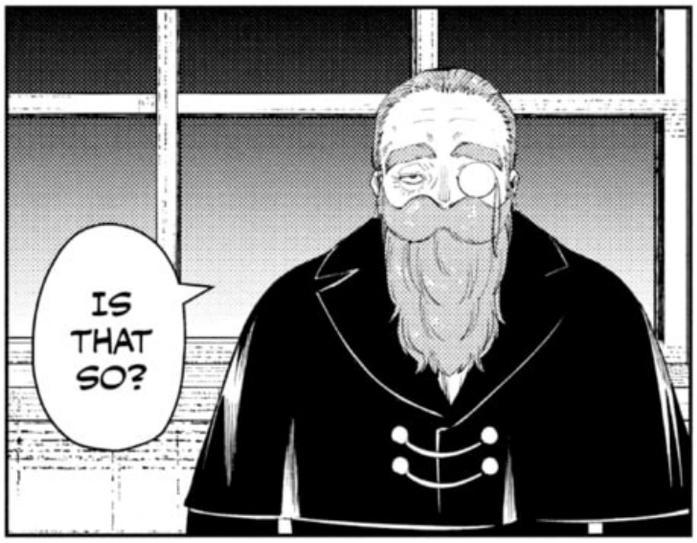

AT LEAST, HE HAD NEVER DEFIED LORD GLÜCK'S ORDERS.
I USED TO THINK THAT A SAFETY PRECAUTION LIKE THE STONE BRACELET OF SERVI-TUDE WAS UNNECES-SARY.

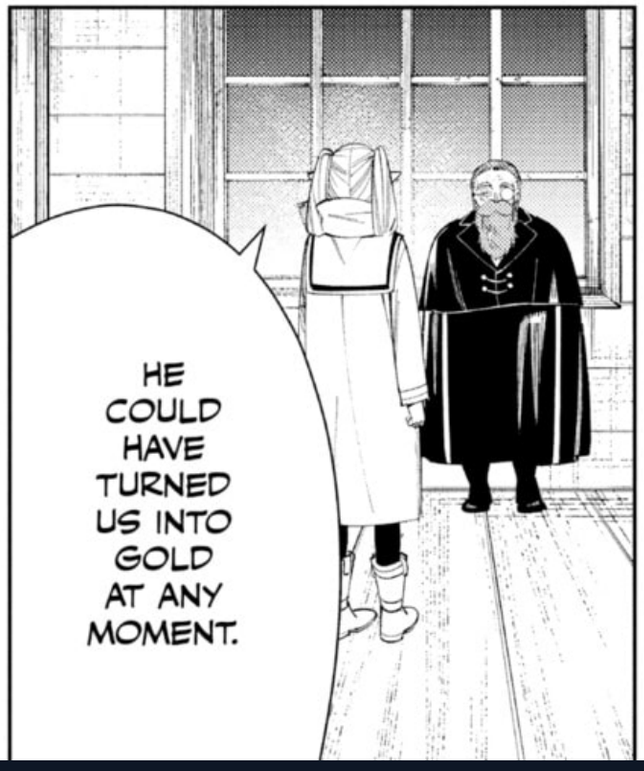
IN FACT, MACHT HAD BEEN AMICABLE TOWARD US EVEN BEFORE THE STONE BRACELET OF SERVITUDE WAS PUT ON HIM.

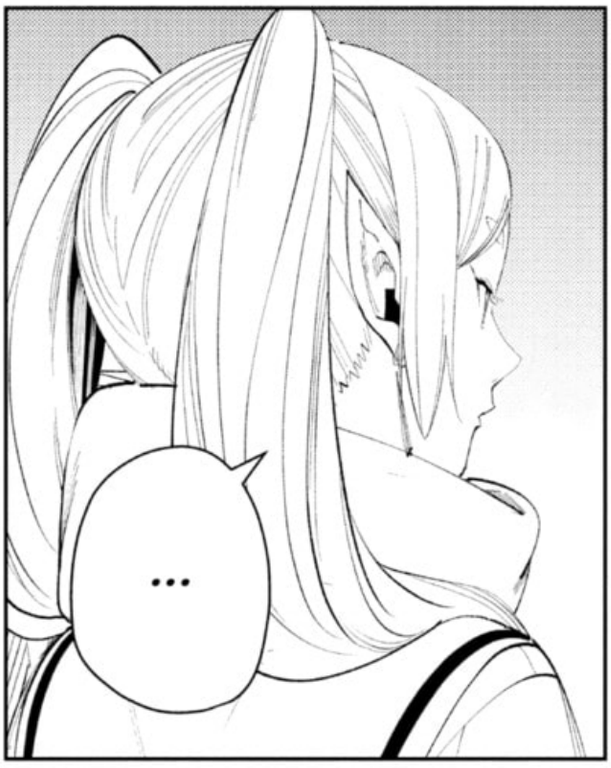
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WE WERE IN AN EXTRAOR-DINARY SITUATION.
THE FORTRESS CITY OF WEISE AT THAT TIME WAS A CITY

WHERE COEX-
ISTENCE WITH
DEMONS WAS
POSSIBLE.

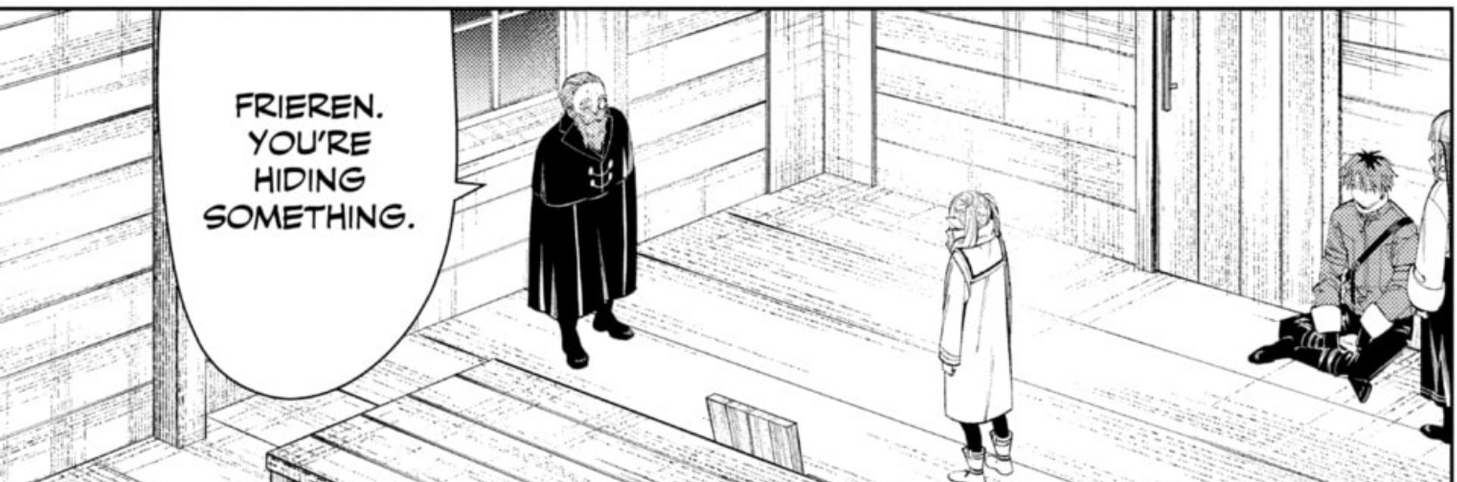


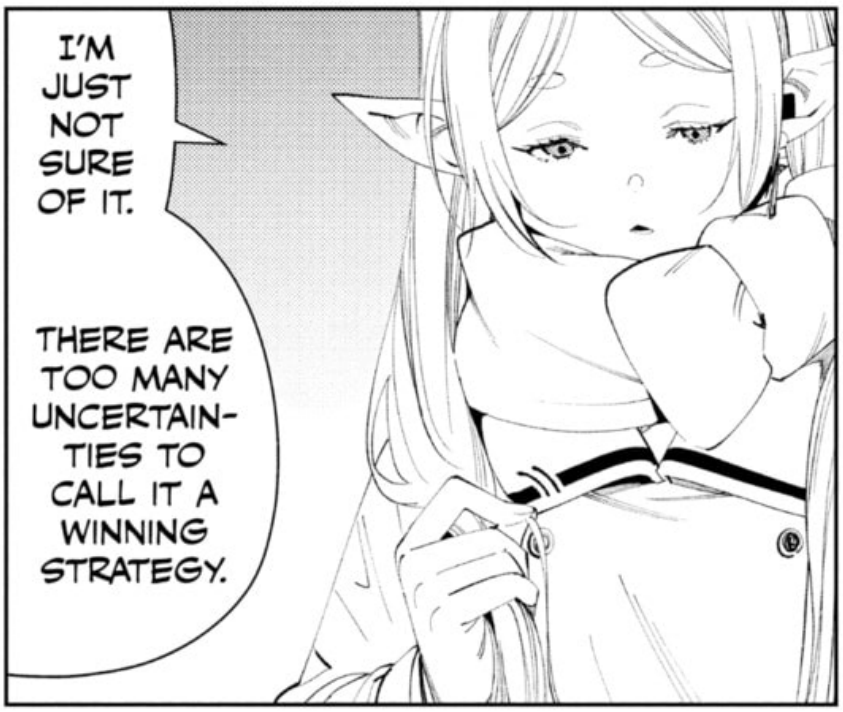

IS THAT SO?


HE COULD HAVE TURNED US INTO GOLD AT ANY MOMENT.


...

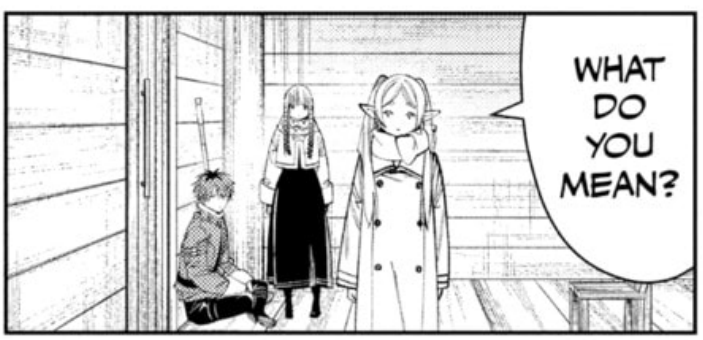
AND YOU STILL TRIED TO PICK A FIGHT WITH HIM.


FRIEREN. YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING.


I'M JUST NOT SURE OF IT.
THERE ARE TOO MANY UNCERTAIN-TIES TO CALL IT A WINNING STRATEGY.

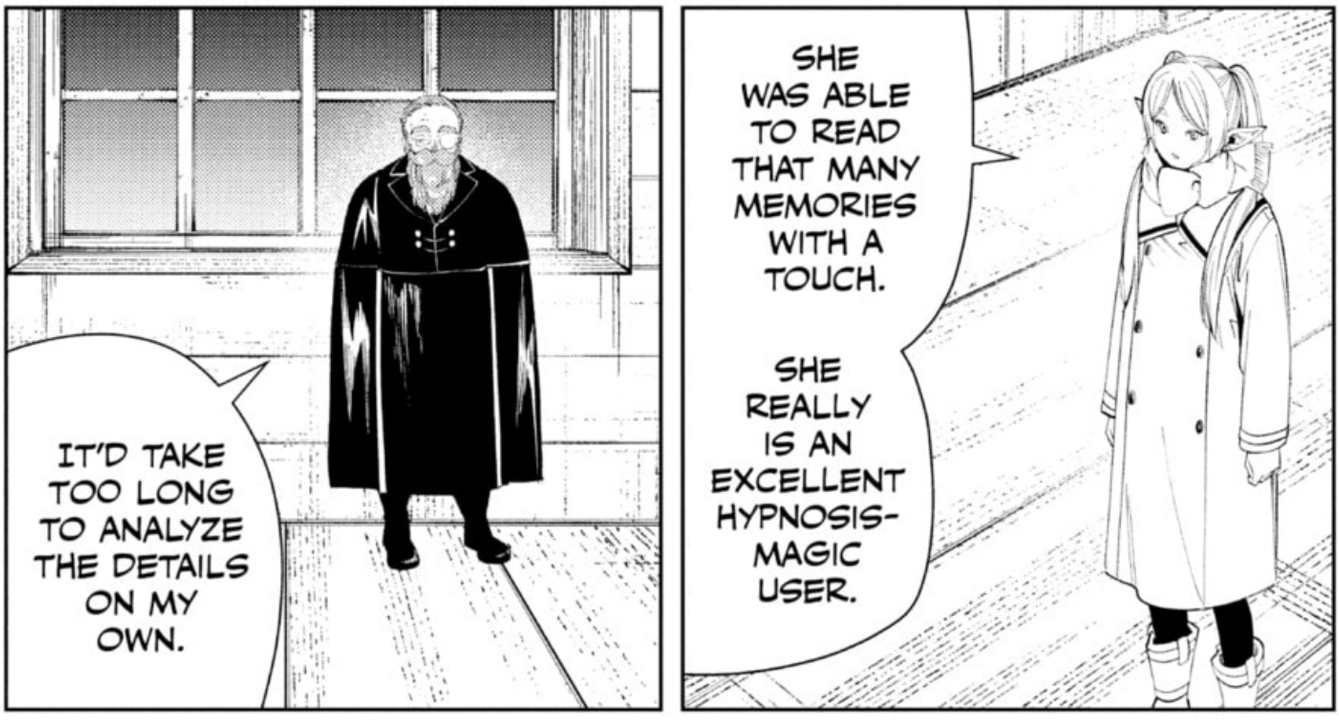
I'M NOT TRYING TO HIDE ANY-THING.

ABOUT THAT...
I HAVEN'T FINISHED ANALYZING THEM ALL.

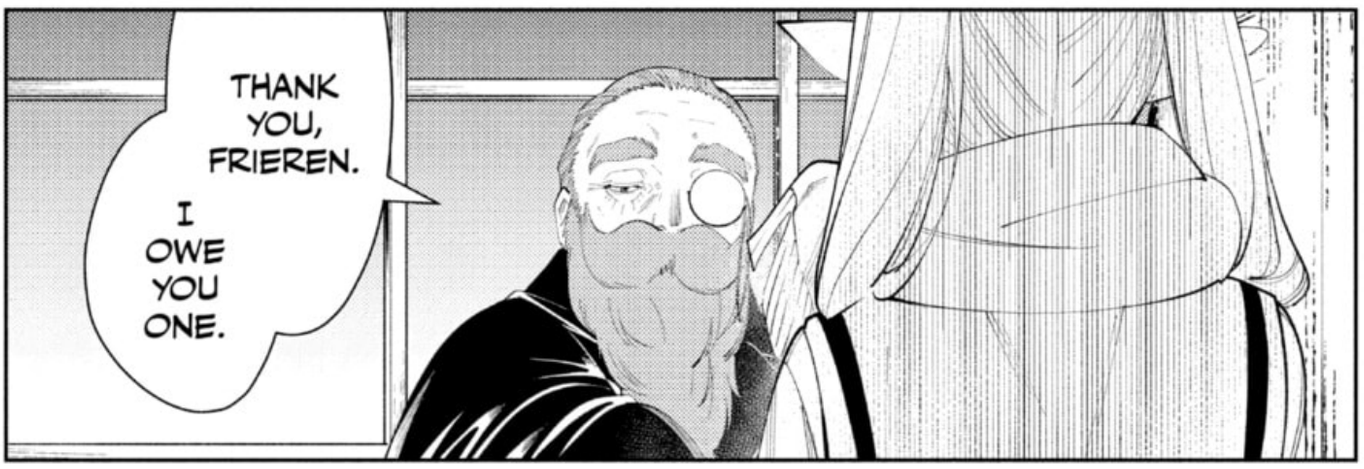

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

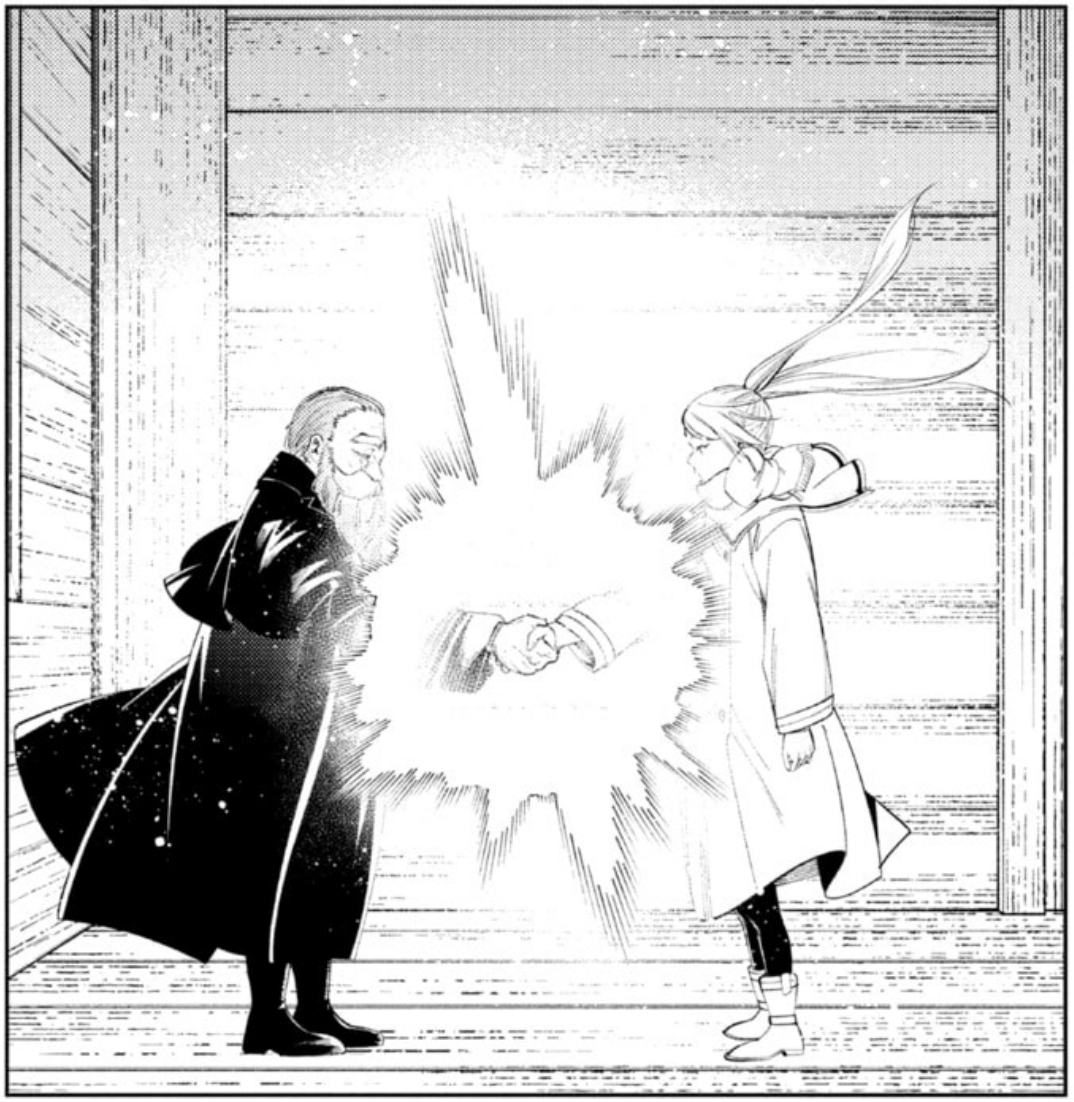
I'M SURE YOU'VE ALREADY FOUND SOMETHING THAT MIGHT LEAD US TO VICTORY TOO.
YOU'VE READ MACHT'S MEMORIES, AFTER ALL.

THE RANGE OF MEMORIES THAT EDEL SCANNED COVER 100 YEARS.
A CENTURY'S WORTH OF MEMORIES, HUH?
THERE ARE SIMPLY TOO MANY MEMORIES TO READ.

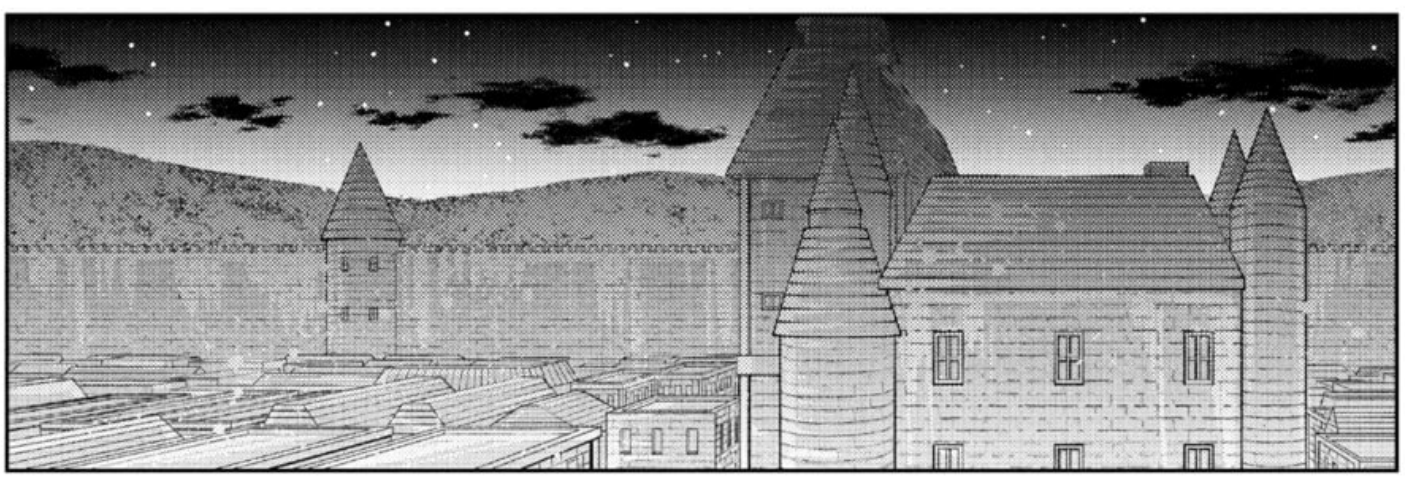

IT'D TAKE TOO LONG TO ANALYZE THE DETAILS ON MY OWN.
SHE WAS ABLE TO READ THAT MANY MEMORIES WITH A TOUCH.
SHE REALLY IS AN EXCELLENT HYPNOSIS-MAGIC USER.

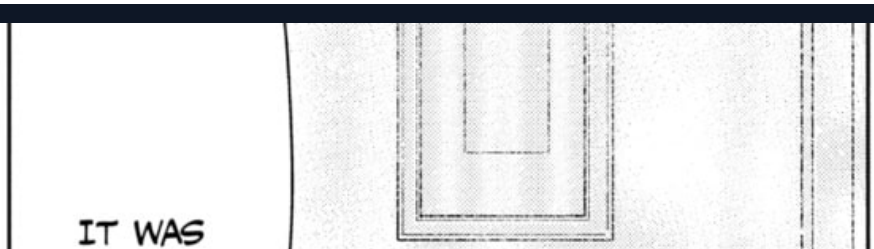
IS THAT POS-SIBLE?
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL HELP YOU WITH THAT.
HYPNOSIS MAGIC IS NOT MY STRONG SUIT...
...BUT AS LONG AS SOMEONE ASSISTS ME...
...I CAN SHARE AND ANALYZE MEMORIES.

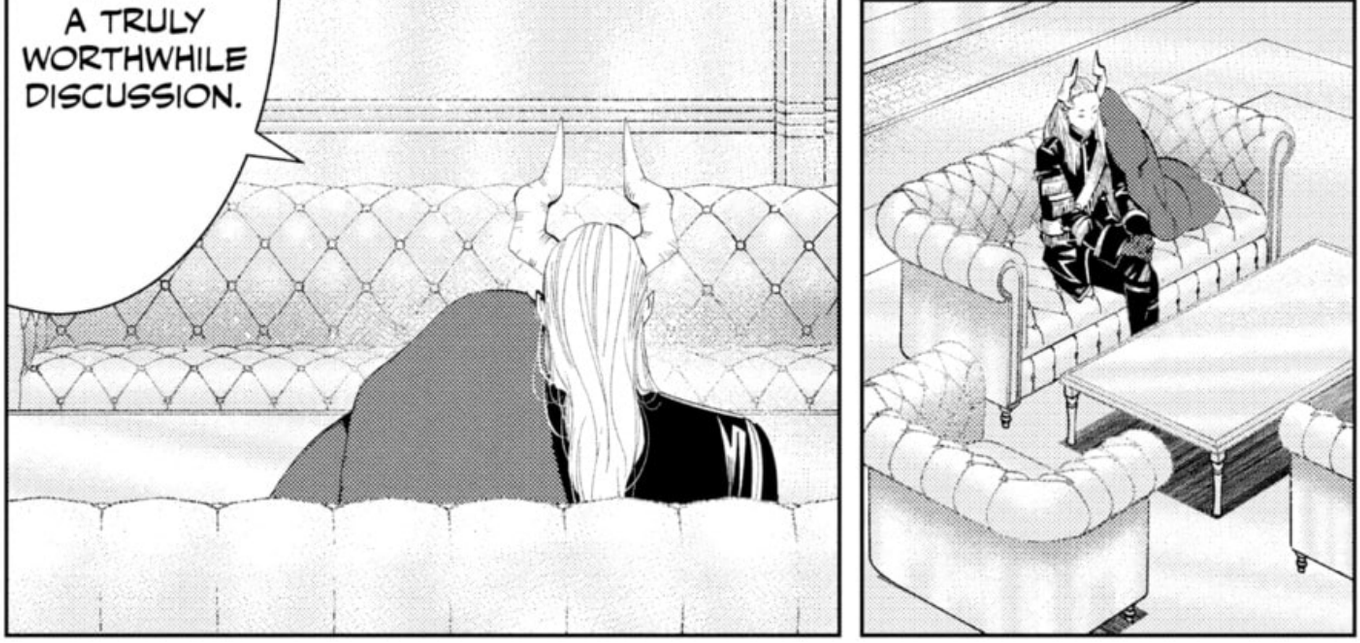

THANK YOU, FRIEREN.
I OWE YOU ONE.



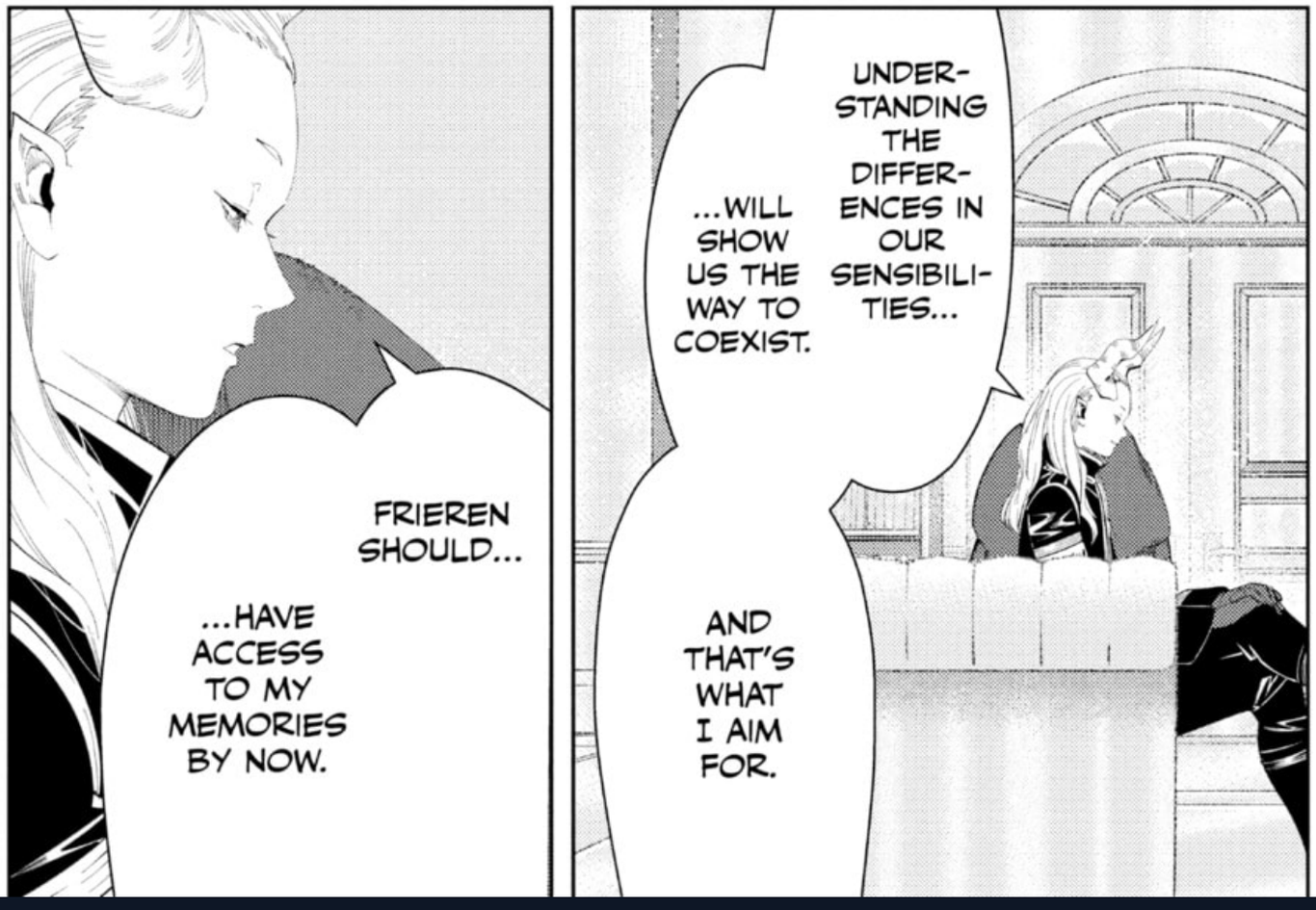
LET'S FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT MACHT...
...FROM THE WORLD OF HIS MEMORIES.

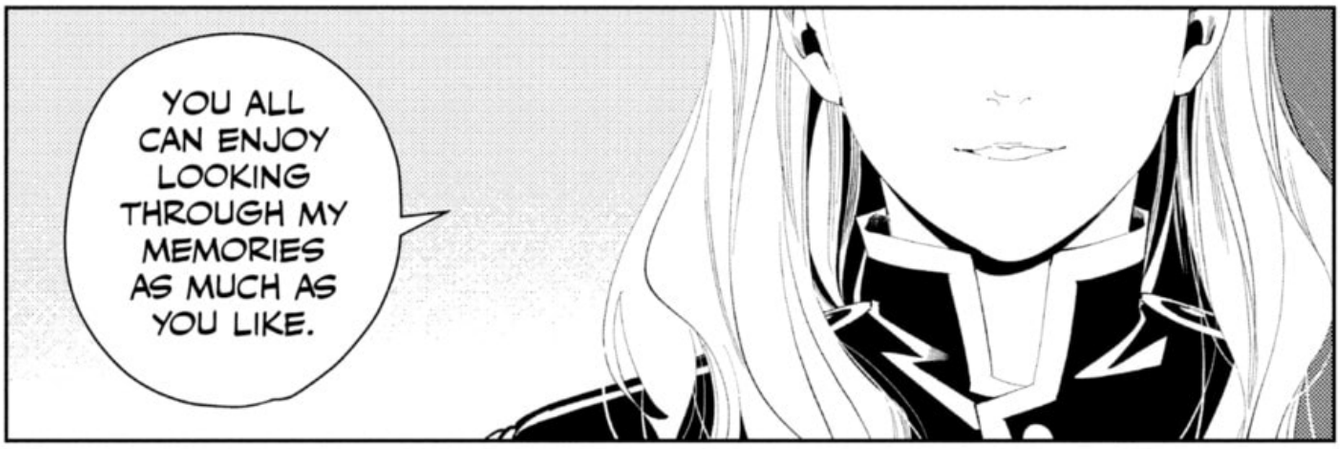



IT WAS


A TRULY WORTHWHILE DISCUSSION.

"WHY WOULD YOU CONTINUE TO KILL HUMANS IF YOU WISH TO COEXIST WITH THEM?"
AN EXCELLENT QUESTION...
FRIEREN.


UNDER-STANDING THE DIFFER-ENCES IN OUR SENSIBILI-TIES...
...WILL SHOW US THE WAY TO COEXIST.
AND THAT'S WHAT I AIM FOR.
FRIEREN SHOULD...
...HAVE ACCESS TO MY MEMORIES BY NOW.


YOU ALL CAN ENJOY LOOKING THROUGH MY MEMORIES AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.

SHOW ME THE ANSWERS I'VE BEEN SEEKING.

LET'S FIGHT TO THE DEATH FOR OUR COEXIS-TENCE...
... FRIEREN.

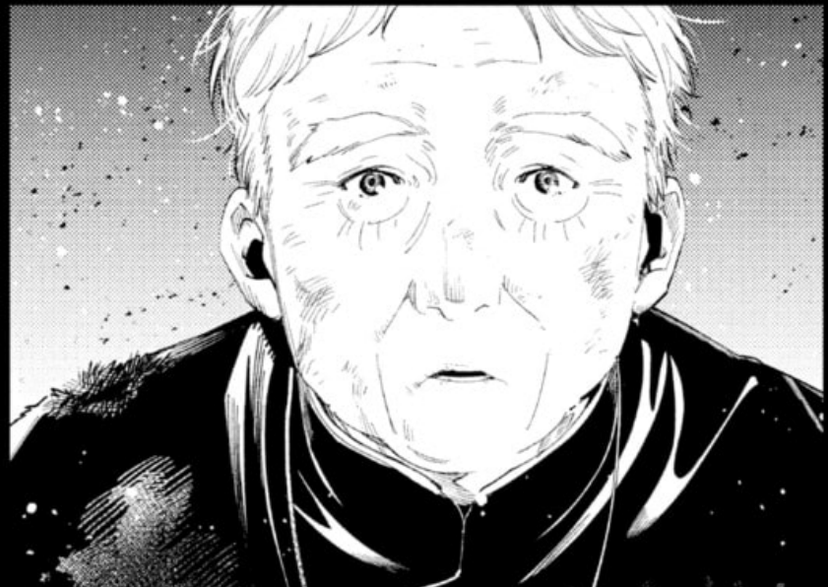
IT WAS JUST ANOTHER DAY...
IT ALL STARTED WITH SOMETHING SO TRIVIAL.

I ANNIHILATED ANOTHER HUMAN VILLAGE AT THE DEMON KING'S ORDERS.

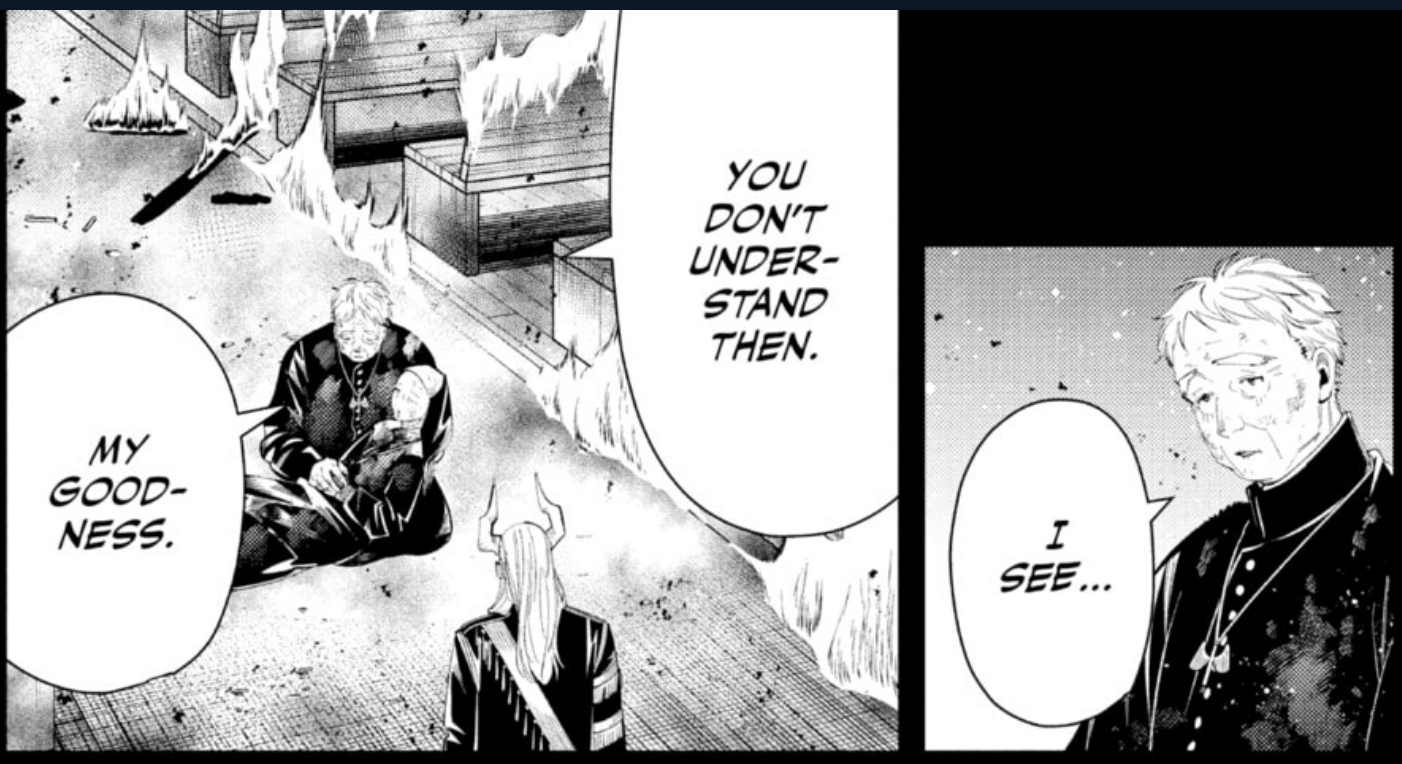
IT WAS JUST ONE OF MANY...
...THAT I HAD DE-STROYED.

THE PRIEST IN THAT VILLAGE RAMBLED ON ABOUT "MALICE" AND "GUILT."
I'D HEARD ALL THAT SO MANY TIMES FROM DYING PEOPLE.

BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT THAT

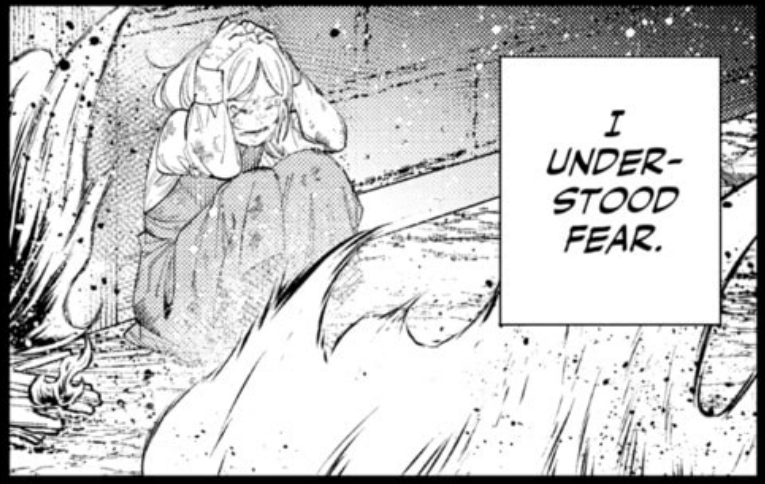


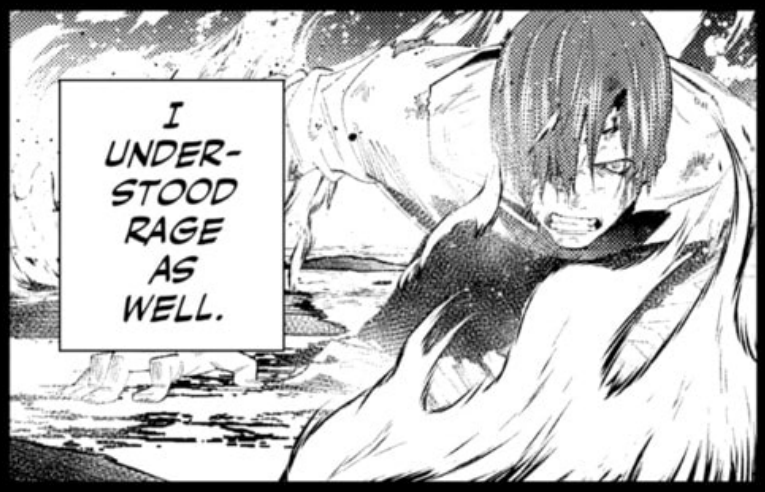
PRIEST.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'VE SUDDENLY GONE SILENT.
ARE YOU NOT GOING TO KEEP BEGGING FOR YOUR LIFE?


YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND THEN.
MY GOOD-NESS.
I SEE...

YOU POOR THING...
SLA
SH

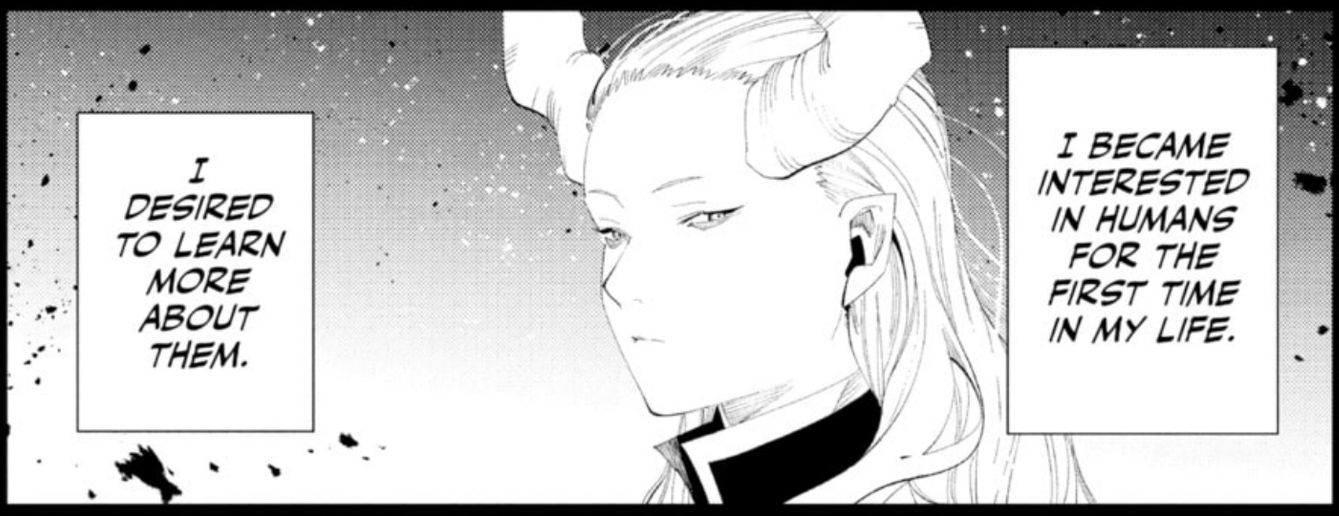
I REALIZED THAT I KNEW THOSE WORDS BUT DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS.
THAT'S WHEN A QUESTION POPPED INTO MY HEAD.


I UNDER-STOOD FEAR.


I UNDER-STOOD RAGE AS WELL.

I UNDER-STOOD THAT TOO.
AND SORROW.

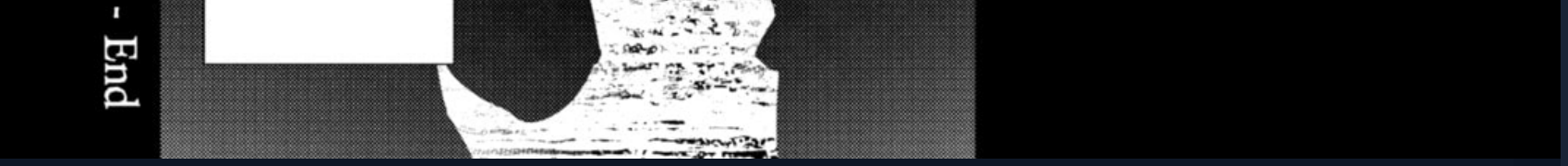
AND WHAT HE FELT WAS THE INTENT TO KILL.
SOME-THING BORN OF ANGER OR HATRED.
I UNDER-STOOD THAT TOO.
WE DEMONS LACK SOME FEELINGS THAT ARE NATURAL TO HUMANS.
WHAT ARE THEY?
BUT WHAT IS "MALICE"?
WHAT IS "GUILT"?


I BECAME INTERESTED IN HUMANS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
I DESIRED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM.

YOU TWO...
FIGHT TO THE DEATH. I WILL ALLOW THE SURVIVOR TO LIVE.

I WANTED TO UNDER-STAND OTHERS.
I KNOW WHAT THAT FEELING WAS TOO.

WHAT I FELT WAS AFFEC-TION.
I STARTED TO LIKE HUMANS.



Frieren: Beyond Journey's End

VOLUME 9

Shonen Sunday Edition

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FRIEREN: BEYOND JOURNEY'S END is rated T for Teen and recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains fantasy violence.

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← Previous Chapter

Next Chapter →